

STATE GOVERNMENT NEWS

Published Monthly by
THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS



Vol. 3

May, 1960

No. 5

LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

Alaska -- The 1960 Alaska legislature adjourned March 30 after approving a state spending program of \$46.5 million for the fiscal year beginning July 1. It includes direct appropriations from the general fund of slightly more than \$35 million and expenditure of \$7.8 million of the transitional funds deeded to the state by the federal government. Comparison with earlier territorial budgets or the first state budget passed last year is difficult, primarily because of new fiscal procedures adopted this year. One of the major changes was to end earmarking of highway and aviation fuel taxes for special purposes and to direct these revenues into the general fund.

To help balance spending the state will draw about \$5 million from the expected general fund surplus at the end of the current fiscal year. The highway motor fuel tax was raised from 5 to 7 cents a gallon to bring in an estimated \$950,000, and the tax on fuel for boats was raised from 2 to 3 cents a gallon to produce \$98,000.

The legislature approved for submission to the voters in November, six general obligation bond programs totaling \$39.5 million. If the proposal is signed by Governor William A. Egan and approved by the voters, the bond issues will go for construction of a gymnasium at the University of Alaska, state office buildings at Anchorage and Fairbanks, a vocational education school north of the Yukon, a state ferry system and other capital improvements.

The rate of payments by employers and employees into the unemployment insurance fund was revised and the wage ceiling on which jobless benefit taxes are levied was raised from \$4,200 to \$7,200 a year, retroactive to January 1 of this year. From that date until October 1, employers will be taxed at a rate of 2.9 per cent instead of the old rate of 2.7 per cent; employees will pay .6 per cent instead of the previous .5 per cent.

Beginning October 1, a variable tax rate will apply, ranging from 1.5 to 4 per cent for employers and from .3 to .9 per cent for employees. The higher rates will be charged against industries and workers causing the largest drain from the jobless fund, now \$9 million in debt to the federal government. The new tax rates are expected to provide a surplus of \$220,000 a year for the fund, which has been running \$1.4 million in the red annually.

In measures affecting state government organization, a planning division was established in the Governor's office, a soil conservation board in the Department of Agriculture, and a power development section in the Department of Commerce. Part of the state's economic development program was transferred to a private firm. Merit and retirement systems were set up for state employees, and travel pay for members of state boards and commissions was raised from \$20 to \$25 a day, and for other state officials from \$15 to \$20 per day. The Legislative Council was authorized as the state agency for interstate cooperation, and Alaska was authorized to participate in the Interstate Juvenile Compact.

The legislature established uniform extradition procedures, provided for out-of-state incarceration of probation and parole violators and instituted a parole system. New measures governing detention of prisoners include permission for honor prisoners to make week-long trips home every six months. Passed over the Governor's veto was a bill legalizing certain non-profit gambling activities including lotteries on the break-up of ice in the Nenana and Chena Rivers.

Kansas -- The 1960 budget session of the Kansas legislature convened January 12 and adjourned February 10. The legislature authorized increased expenditures of \$1.5 million for fiscal 1960 -- bringing total adjusted expenditures for 1960 to \$330.9 million. Available balances in the general

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1025 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

revenue and sales tax funds at the close of fiscal 1960 are estimated at \$26 million. The legislature appropriated \$345.5 million for fiscal 1961 -- \$7.3 million over the Governor's budget request.

More than half of the legislature's increase for fiscal 1961 represented additional State School Emergency Fund payments of \$3.9 million. Other appropriations include a total of \$101.5 million for education and research, \$59.7 million for welfare, \$5.6 million for public safety, \$26.8 million for health and hospitals, and \$112.2 million for highways and other transportation.

Hunting and fishing license fees were raised from \$2 to \$3 for residents. The nonresident hunting license was set at \$15 and the nonresident fishing license at \$5. It is anticipated that these measures will yield \$400,000.

The legislature approved a constitutional amendment, to be voted on by the people in November, increasing legislators' pay from \$5 to \$15 per day and expense allowances from \$7 to \$15 per day.

New York -- The New York legislature convened January 6 and adjourned April 1. During the session 8,622 bills were introduced and 1,389 passed. Although the Governor vetoed 300 bills, the 1,089 which became law represent a record number of new laws.

Regular and supplemental budgets approved for the next fiscal year totaled nearly \$2.1 billion. The legislature authorized transfer of some \$52 million in surplus funds to the capital construction fund. The income tax credit for heads of households was increased from \$10 to \$25. Some reductions were made in taxes on unincorporated businesses. The legislature implemented a recently approved constitutional amendment to make state income tax laws and regulations conform more closely to federal provisions.

A series of acts were adopted to eliminate various state boards and commissions and to transfer functions to existing departments. An office for general service was established in the Executive Department. Initial approval was given to a constitutional amendment to delete the names of departments from the state constitution and to substitute a provision limiting the departments of the state to twenty.

The legislature authorized the state to assume the 5 per cent contribution which employees have been making under the retirement plan, thus providing in effect a 5 per cent salary increase. New York City was authorized to take similar steps. Additional action established vesting rights in the state retirement system and increased supplementary pensions for retired state employees and teachers to offset the rise in living costs which has occurred since retirement.

State aid for local school districts was increased by \$99 million. Counties were authorized to enact a 10 per cent tax on local telephone service, the proceeds to go for education, if the federal government

allows its similar tax to expire July 1. Transportation for parochial and private school children, previously furnished in many districts, was made mandatory. The credit of the state was placed behind bonds of the State Dormitory Authority; this will permit their sale at a lower interest rate, thus aiding construction of facilities at private colleges. An appropriation of \$1.6 million was voted for aid to libraries.

Legislation was passed requiring group health and accident insurance plans to permit policy holders to convert from group to individual plans at fair rates on termination of employment. A dental service corporation was created to develop insurance plans for dental services. Additional state facilities for treatment of narcotics addicts were approved, and courts were authorized to commit addicts to state hospitals for one year. The legislature established procedures for admission to state mental hospitals upon petition by a close relation and certification by two doctors. The Interstate Placement Compact was approved, as was legislation tightening requirements for adoption of children. The legislature also approved an act requiring school districts to provide special classes for mentally retarded children.

A far-reaching juvenile delinquency program was enacted. It includes provisions for work camps for juvenile and other youthful offenders and somewhat similar facilities to which potentially delinquent juveniles may go on a voluntary basis.

A Department of Motor Vehicles was established to replace the present bureau. A traffic safety commission was established to coordinate accident prevention in New York, Connecticut and New Jersey.

A State Housing Finance Agency was established to sell bonds for financing middle income housing. The legislature also authorized an increase in state subsidies for low rent housing and urban renewal projects.

Another act set a statewide minimum wage of \$1 per hour. Maximum weekly unemployment benefits were increased from \$45 to \$50, and eligibility requirements were tightened. Maximum workmen's compensation benefits were increased from \$45 to \$50 per week; coverage was extended to employers of

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1313 East Sixtieth Street, Chicago 37, Illinois

BREVARD CRIFFIELD, Executive Director

FRANK SMOTHERS, Director of Publications

JOSEPH J. MOYLAN, Editor, *State Government News*

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two or more persons. Similar changes were made in sickness disability benefits.

Initial approval was given to two proposed constitutional amendments to establish an industrial development authority. The legislature authorized changes in the state's banking law to extend branch banking privileges and to regulate bank holding companies.

New York City was granted \$22 million in special assistance for various functions. Another enactment authorized the city to impose new annual taxes on taxicabs and trucks in lieu of a tax on taxicab rides. Commercial rent control in the city was extended for one year. New York City police officers were authorized to live in counties adjacent to the city.

A temporary state commission to plan for a 1964 world's fair was established. The Interstate Sanitation Commission was authorized to undertake air pollution studies with New Jersey. The Great Lakes Basin Compact was ratified, and the Lake Champlain Commission was authorized to study plans for development of the region. Measures were adopted to facilitate interlocal cooperation, and new duties were assigned to the State Office of Local Government. Another act authorized the Office of Atomic Energy to cooperate with the United States Atomic Energy Commission in the regulation of radiation sources. Licensing authority in this field was assigned to the State Health Department.

Vermont -- The 1959 session of the Vermont legislature, which adjourned on June 11, 1959, reconvened on January 12, 1960, and adjourned finally on February 9.

Major measures approved in the reconvened session dealt with organization of the executive branch of the government. The legislature established a Department of Administration with divisions of budget and management, finance, personnel, public buildings, public records and purchasing. A general reorganization act provides for organization of the executive branch into the offices headed by constitutionally elected officials and twenty administrative departments, established by the act. In addition to renaming some existing agencies and, in certain instances, reassigning powers and duties, the new law attaches a group of interstate agencies to the Governor's office. It also creates in the Office of the Secretary of State a division of registration, licensing and secretarial services, to which all licensing boards are attached.

The personnel law was revised to provide for a Personnel Board and a Board of Personnel Appeals as part of the new Personnel Division in the Department of Administration.

A supplemental appropriation act provided additional funds for some agencies. A purchase and use tax of 2 per cent was imposed on all motor vehicles, with the maximum tax on any purchase set at \$150. The Governor was authorized to limit expenditures

of any agency whenever the purpose for which its appropriation was made can be achieved with smaller amounts.

The legislature authorized the Public Service Commission to act for the state in negotiations for the purchase of electric power from the Niagara River project.

California Special Session -- A special session of the California legislature adjourned April 7, highlighted by passage of a master plan for higher education and a smog control program.

The education plan provides for a Board of Trustees to administer the state colleges, much as the Board of Regents administers the University of California at its various campuses, and for a state Coordinating Council on Higher Education to act as an advisory body to institutions of higher learning and appropriate state officials. The new board has sixteen members appointed by the Governor and four ex officio members -- the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Superintendent of Public Instruction and a person named as Chief Executive by the Board of Trustees. The coordinating council will comprise representatives of the University of California, the state college system, the public junior colleges, private colleges and universities, and the general public. Among functions of the council will be to review the annual budget and capital outlay requests of the university and the state colleges. It will advise on the application of provisions delineating the separate functions of the university and the state colleges; counsel as to the programs appropriate to each segment; develop plans for orderly growth of public higher education; and make recommendations as to need for and location of new facilities and programs.

In the smog control program, the legislature created a Motor Vehicle Pollution Control Board within the Department of Health but directly responsible to the Governor. The agency is empowered to establish criteria for automobile exhaust devices to prevent discharge of air pollutants and to approve such devices for sale to the public. Within a year after two or more such devices are certified by the board, they will become mandatory equipment on all new cars registered in California. Used cars will be subject to regulation within three years in all counties except those that rule they have no smog problem. The counties that are excepted must make a smog survey every two years to prove that their situation has not changed. The legislature appropriated \$500,000 to carry out provisions of the program.

Higher scholarship allotments were approved for outstanding high school students to attend state or private colleges, and the number of such scholarships will be doubled over a period of years.

The legislature appropriated almost a quarter of a million dollars to provide for additional narcotics agents and for a newly established commission to study the narcotics

problem, including need for new laws in this field.

In other action cities were empowered to close streets to establish pedestrian malls in downtown shopping districts.

The legislature approved for submission to the voters at a June 7 primary election proposed bond issues of \$300,000 for additional state loans and grants to local districts for school construction and of \$400,000 to continue the state program of farm and home purchase loans to war veterans. This action leaves a \$1,750 million bond issue for development and redistribution of water resources as the sole bond consideration to go before the voters at the November 8 general election.

Illinois Special Session -- The Illinois legislature convened in special session May 3 on the call of Governor William G. Stratton. Subjects to be considered include emergency appropriations of funds for general assistance purposes; provision for nomination of justices of the peace and constables by a caucus of voters instead of a primary election; and amendment of the laws relating to the establishment, operation, administration and maintenance of a police department under a board of police commissioners in cities of 500,000 or more population (Chicago). Flood control appropriations and the establishment of a tuberculosis clinic in Chicago were also among subjects to be considered.

LEGISLATIVE COMPENSATION

The Mississippi legislature has approved a \$100 per month expense allowance for legislators to cover interim expenses when the legislature is not in session. This will supplement the regular \$3,000 stipend for a biennial session, \$22.50 per day for special sessions, and weekend round trip mileage allowances during both regular and special sessions.

STATE BOATING ACTS APPROVED

A total of thirty states have received United States Coast Guard approval for boating registration laws.

The states are Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Presently exempt from numbering by the Coast Guard until July 1 are boats whose states of principal use are Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico and Virginia. It is anticipated that approved state numbering laws will be in effect in those states by July 1.

In all other states and the District of Columbia the Coast Guard began on April 1 to number pleasure boats powered by motors of more than ten horsepower.

The Advisory Panel of State Officials of the Merchant Marine Council, United States Coast Guard, sponsored a meeting in Washington, D.C., April 12, for state officials responsible for administering and enforcing state boating laws. Representatives of the Coast Guard explained to approximately 100 delegates present from twenty-nine states the federal numbering, enforcement and accident reporting and investigating programs, and the Coast Guard Auxiliary program. Speakers emphasized the desirability of uniformity of standards and of cooperation and coordination in boating safety programs.

TAX, FISCAL AFFAIRS

Tax and Assessment Conferences -- The Tennessee State Board of Equalization recently held a series of nine property assessment and tax equalization conferences at various locations throughout the state. The meetings, for county and city officials responsible for administering property tax assessments and equalization functions, included discussion of improved assessment standards and facilities, assessor's office equipment, records and procedure, and field procedure and forms. The participants also considered appeal procedures before county boards of equalization.

Authorize Waiver of Tax Penalties -- A 1960 Georgia law authorizes the State Revenue Commissioner to waive tax penalties whenever he determines that the default was due to reasonable cause. He may waive collection of interest when he determines that the delay in payment was due to revenue department action.

South Dakota Tax Study Report -- A South Dakota Citizens Tax Study Committee in a report to the Governor has forecast rising deficits if expenditures continue an upward trend and tax rates remain at their 1960 level. The committee indicated that property owners should be given tax relief through protection from future rate increases and relief on existing obligations.

Committee proposals to provide needed revenue and property tax relief included the following: (1) a higher sales tax through an increase in the rate and broadening of the base; (2) adoption of personal and corporate income taxes; (3) a cut in highway expenditures; and (4) elimination of revenue earmarking.

Bonded Indebtedness -- The Hawaii Supreme Court in a 3-2 decision has ruled that the state cannot incur further bonded indebted-

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ness because the constitutional limitation on indebtedness has been exceeded.

In effect, the ruling invalidated some \$100 million in authorized but unissued bonds. The constitution establishes a limit of \$60 million on the state's outstanding funded indebtedness, but provides the limit may be exceeded by a two-thirds vote of both houses of the legislature up to 15 per cent of the total assessed value of real property in the state, as determined by the latest tax assessment rolls.

On the basis of the state's 1959 assessed real estate value the upper limit on bonded indebtedness is \$172,860,000. In computing the state's present indebtedness at \$178.5 million, the court included nearly \$50 million of highway revenue bonds. Prior to the court's decision there had been question as to whether these territorial highway bonds, pledged against vehicle fuel revenues, had to be considered as part of the state's legal debt. Under territorial law these constituted an obligation of the issuing agency.

Commenting on the court's decision, Governor William F. Quinn noted that the state's bonding power is not so crippled as at first appeared. He pointed out that new assessments in April will raise the ceiling by an estimated \$80 million. In addition, another \$10 million will be available through retirement of present bonds. Furthermore, the capital improvements program recommended for 1960-61 calls for cash financing from state surplus funds.

TRAFFIC CONTROL, SAFETY

Traffic Council -- In an effort to reduce Arizona traffic accidents, Governor Paul Fannin has established a Governor's Traffic Safety Coordinating Council, to develop a comprehensive action program free of partisan or political considerations.

The council is composed of the Governor's Traffic Safety Research Committee, formed last fall, and other top state officials. The research committee comprises the Governor, the Supervisors of the Traffic Safety and Motor Vehicle Divisions of the State Highway Department, the Superintendent of the State Highway Patrol and the State Highway Engineer. In addition, the coordinating council includes the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Attorney General, Chairmen of the Highway Commission and the Corporation Commission, and heads of all departments and agencies with traffic safety responsibilities.

The council will establish priorities for changes in the official state highway safety program. A study of safety needs by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, and the program of the Arizona Traffic Safety Foundation, will be integrated into the state program.

Motor Vehicle Inspection Law -- The Mississippi legislature has completed action on a

bill providing for a compulsory, periodic motor vehicle inspection law. Annual inspections by licensed, privately owned garages will cost motorists \$1.25, of which 25 cents will go to the state highway patrol, responsible for administering the act.

EDUCATION

School District Reorganization -- A Montana Governor's Committee on School District Reorganization has announced general agreement on specific principles for a district reorganization bill to be submitted to the 1961 legislature.

C. R. Anderson, Superintendent of the Helena school system and Committee Chairman, reported that the proposed reorganization would begin with appointment of a School District Reorganization Commission by the State Board of Education. The commission will organize, direct and coordinate the reorganization.

The work of redistricting will be done by committees of seven members, each elected in every county. Each committee will study school district needs from the viewpoint of effecting better education, and more efficient administration of elementary and secondary schools in the county. The committees will hold public hearings on any proposed action, and prepare and submit to the voters of their counties detailed plans for rearrangement of districts. In any county where a plan is not accepted by July 1, 1963, the County Commission is to complete a plan by January 1, 1964.

School districts formed under the reorganization program will be required to maintain classes for grades one through twelve, including one accredited high school. A reorganized district will contain four trustee divisions, each nominating one member for election at large to a district board of seven members. The other three trustees are to be nominated and elected at large in the district. A petition signed by at least ten qualified voters of the district will be necessary for nomination.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Juvenile Administrators Meet -- The Association of Juvenile Compact Administrators held its annual meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, April 30-May 1. Compact administrators or their deputies from eighteen states attended, as did observers from several states which are considering ratifying the compact.

Participants discussed prospects for ratification of the compact in additional states in 1961. It was noted that the recent White House Conference on Children and Youth passed a resolution endorsing the Juvenile Compact, and it was suggested that conference committees in states not party to the compact might work for ratification.

Other topics of discussion included interstate supervision of juveniles on parole

or probation, juvenile age limits, travel permits for juveniles, availability of state and federal funds for return of runaways, collection of statistics in this field, and plans of the western states for joint training and research programs for staffs working with defective delinquents. The association adopted a resolution requesting that a National Governors' Conference on Juvenile Delinquency be held as means of formulating state programs.

Newly elected officers of the association are J. Luther Glass, Virginia, President; Albert B. Carter, Massachusetts, Vice President; Raymond Riese, Oregon, Treasurer; John J. Shea, Maine; Herschel Saucier, Mississippi; and Marie Smith, Colorado.

Juvenile Commission -- A Juvenile Court Judges' Commission in the Pennsylvania Department of Justice was recently created by the legislature. The commission is composed of nine juvenile court judges approved by the Governor from a list submitted by the Chief Justice. The commission is empowered to advise juvenile court judges on matters relating to care and maintenance of delinquent children; make recommendations for administrative methods and judicial procedure in such courts; and recommend as to personnel practices and employment standards in probation offices.

RECIPROCAL ENFORCEMENT OF SUPPORT

A Northeastern Regional Conference on Reciprocal Enforcement of Support was held in New York City on April 22, attended by some sixty-five state and local officials.

Speakers reported on recent legislation concerning reciprocal support, the 1959 National Conference, plans for the 1960 National Conference, and the work of the Conference Committee on Administrative Procedures. Among other topics the participants discussed the locating of missing responsible relatives, the practice of requesting responding states to verify addresses before petitions are forwarded, and the matter of service fees charged by some courts.

Considerable attention was given to the role of state agencies in reciprocal support, including the possibility of developing administrative agreements among information agencies for provision of special services on a reciprocal basis. Other subjects examined at the conference included local enforcement of support, basic duties of support, effects of prior decrees within a state, possible use of statewide referee or master systems in support cases, attachment of wages, and reciprocity with Canadian provinces.

The conference adopted a motion calling on the United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to rescind a recent regulation establishing numerous conditions and imposing charges for requests by state and local welfare agencies for information from OASI records as to addresses of missing

persons. Another motion opposed the levying of fees or service charges which in any way reduce payments to petitioners in reciprocal support cases.

PROBLEMS OF THE AGING

A conference on "Employment of the Mature and the Elderly: Challenge and Opportunity," was held in Atlanta, Georgia, April 24-26. The meeting, sponsored by the Southern Regional Conference of the Council of State Governments and the Southern States Advisory Committee on Aging, was attended by more than seventy officials from fifteen states.

Associate Justice Carleton Mobley of the Georgia Supreme Court welcomed the participants, who came from state and federal agencies concerned with problems of the aging as well as a number from labor and industry.

In three workshop sessions participants discussed the many ramifications of older worker employment problems. Workshop recommendations included: (1) creation of permanent and staffed coordinating agencies of state government to deal with problems of aging -- a major goal to be solutions of employment problems; (2) flexible retirement programs in government and industry; (3) wider use of training and retraining for older workers; (4) vesting of pension rights in state government retirement systems and shortening of periods required for acquiring such rights; (5) elimination of provisions in state constitutions, statutes and regulations which establish age considerations in employment practices; (6) adequate staffing of public agencies dealing with employment problems of the aged; and (7) counseling programs to instill confidence in older job applicants.

At one of the general sessions of the conference Louis H. Rabin of the Special Staff on Aging, United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare spoke on employment problems of the aged likely to be considered at the White House Conference on Aging in January, 1961. Other speakers and their topics included William U. Norwood, Assistant Director, Bureau of Employment Security, U. S. Department of Labor -- manpower supply and industrial requirements; Frank T. deVyver, Chairman of the Department of Economics and Business Administration, Duke University -- employer practices of industry and government; and Ernest J. Eberling, Department of Economics and Public Administration, Vanderbilt University, and Chief of Research of the Tennessee Department of Employment Security -- state responsibility with regard to employment of older workers. Problems and potentials of employed and unemployed older workers were the respective subjects of addresses by Charles E. Odell, Director, Older and Retired Workers Department, United Automobile Workers, and Harold L. Sheppard, Research Director of the United States Senate Subcommittee on Problems of the Aged and Aging.

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HOSPITAL FARMS DISCONTINUED

New York has discontinued the operation of farms at six mental hospitals and three other state institutions. The farms have been closed because they no longer serve their original purposes as means of treatment, and for economy reasons. The state can purchase food for the institutions for less money than it has cost to operate the farms. It is estimated that if the farms had been operated during the current fiscal year the cost would have been \$1.8 million, whereas food previously supplied by them can be purchased for \$1.1 million. Sale of livestock and equipment from the farms has brought the state more than \$500,000. A study is now under way of possible uses of the land involved, and it is expected that at least some of the properties will be sold for private uses.

TV FILMS ON STATE GOVERNMENT

The Department of Educational Radio and Television of the Oregon State System of Higher Education has prepared a series of fifteen minute black and white sound films on the services and operations of state agencies. Many of the films deal with recently adopted laws, giving information on their background, administration and how they affect the citizens.

The films were first shown as a series of weekly telecasts by the state's publicly owned television station. They are available free of charge to schools, colleges, churches, service clubs, local government meetings, television public service programs and other users. Included in the series are films on the Executive Department, Departments of State, Employment, Motor Vehicles, and Education, the State Supreme Court, Bureau of Labor, Tax Commission, State Civil Defense Agency, Board of Parole and Probation and State Board of Higher Education.

LABOR

Union Picketing -- The California State Supreme Court has ruled in a 4-3 decision that a labor union has a right to picket a nonunion shop which has employees not involved with the picketing union.

In setting aside a Superior Court injunction restraining a union from picketing a San Diego barber shop, the decision held that the critical issue was whether a closed or union shop agreement is a proper objective of a labor union that does not represent any of the employees directly involved. The court noted that the law recognizes a legitimate interest of union labor in organizing workmen in competing nonunion shops, to insure the benefits of collective bargaining in union shops.

The majority decision concluded: "Just as the union has to reckon with the risk that

it might lose its struggle for organization, so the nonunion employer risks loss of employment in resisting organization. Such risks, grim as they are, are the price of lawful competition in a free enterprise system."

THE COURTS

Court Administrators' Proposals -- Illinois Court Administrator Henry P. Chandler and Deputy Administrator John C. Fitzgerald have recommended that personal injury cases brought to Illinois courts from other states be deferred until local cases are heard. Under existing delay conditions in the courts, the proposal would mean that "outside" cases would not be reached for many years, if at all. The measure would reduce the interstate commerce in damage suits, which regularly brings railroad accident and other injury litigation to Chicago from distant states.

Other recommendations would place all pretrial hearings under supervision of a single judge. The hearings would be held in a rented office to free courtrooms for trial use. To release additional judges, the administrators recommended consolidation of chancery, tax, condemnation and special statutory matters in the Circuit and Superior Courts and consolidation of the Circuit Court divorce divisions.

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

Legislative Council Studies -- The Alaska Legislative Council has been assigned seventeen projects to complete before the next meeting of the legislature, in January, 1961. Two of the projects pertain to framing specific measures for submission to the legislature. These are a revision of the criminal code and a bill to deal with the problem of the sale of obscene printed matter to juveniles.

The council was requested to complete a present study of state support for public schools and continue another on a proposed probate code. New studies were asked on the desirability of a stepped-up vocational education program, borough government, the application of overtime provisions in the Alaska wage and hour act, changes in the bounty system, and the advisability of a state-federal cooperative predator control program. Other study subjects include the desirability of establishing a semi-autonomous public works authority to manage state capital improvement programs; the advisability of the state's acting as its own insurer; legislative organization; and problems of classifying cities -- the latter study to be made with the cooperation of the Local Affairs Agency.

Concerning legislative services, the council was directed to make a suggested revision of the joint rules of the legislature and to prepare a handbook on state

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government for use of the legislature, a legislative drafting manual, and a directory of state officials.

PERSONNEL

Fringe Benefits -- The South Dakota Legislative Council has published a report on Fringe Benefits in State Government Employment. It presents information on practices and policies of thirty states on leaves, vacations, allowances, group insurance coverage, retirement programs and other fringe benefits. The report indicates that state employees receive differing fringe benefits according to departments, according to whether or not the employee is under the classified service and for other reasons. Data are presented primarily concerning departmental employees located at the state capitol and state offices. Eleven state-by-state tables show provisions regarding legal holidays, sick leave, military leave, overtime pay, group life insurance, workmen's compensation, retirement systems and longevity pay.

HAWAII CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

A recent report, Capital Improvement Programs in Hawaii, by the Hawaii Legislative Reference Bureau, reviews legislative and executive responsibilities in the planning, authorization and construction of capital improvements financed through special funds.

The report summarizes the scope of the capital improvements program, its financing, procedures for implementing the program and a proposed system for improving its administration. It points out that all capital

improvements pass through five stages -- policy formulation, long range planning, programming, project construction and performance evaluation. The report notes that legislative participation is of utmost importance in policy, program and performance evaluation, while administrative discretion is preeminent in planning and construction. It was stated that program appropriations instead of special fund moneys would allow exercise of legislative authority when appropriate and still leave administrators with sufficient latitude to make substantial contributions to the program.

Executive responsibility for the administration of capital improvements is a function of the State Planning Office. A Department of Planning and Research, provided for in the new state's reorganization act of 1959, has not yet been created.

GOVERNOR'S MANSION

Governor Stephen L. R. McNichols of Colorado has formally accepted possession for the state of a \$500,000 mansion given to the people of Colorado by the Boettcher Foundation. The Governor plans to move into the twenty-seven room mansion next fall. Colorado does not now provide a home for the Governor.

Along with title to the 52-year old mansion went a gift of \$15,000 a year for the next three years to be used as the Governor sees fit; upkeep on the mansion is expected to run between \$25,000 and \$30,000 a year.

Accompanying title to the mansion was a "memorandum of understanding" that requires the property to be used for state purposes only. No stipulation is made that it be used exclusively as a governor's mansion.

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